

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A vent system for a drinking container, the vent system comprising:
a single member closure member adapted and configured for coupling to an open top of the drinking container, said closure member including an air passage there through to allow the passage of air from outside the container to an interior of the container when a vacuum is formed inside the container;

at least one air vent tube with more than one air vent tube opening in a periphery of said closure member, wherein said more than one air vent tube opening are operationally connected to said air passage; and

a one-way valve sealingly and removably coupled to said closure member and operatively connected to said air passage, said air vent tube and said more than one air vent tube opening, and extending into said container, for permitting passage of air from outside the container into said interior of the container through said more than one air vent tube opening, said air vent tube, and said valve, only when a vacuum is formed inside the container and preventing flow of liquid from the interior of the container to outside the container through said vent system.

2. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, wherein said valve includes a circular opening adapted and configured to receive a connecting element of said closure member, said connecting element being operationally connected to said air vent tube, such that air may pass from outside the container through the air vent tube and said connecting element and through said valve.

3-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, wherein said closure member further comprises a liquid opening to allow passage of liquid from the interior of the container through said open top.

25-28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, and further comprising an anti-bubble tube extending to nearly a bottom of portion of the container, said anti-bubble tube being releasably coupleable to said closure member and circumscribing said valve, wherein the anti-bubble tube and the valve trap a volume of air there between, so as to create a "diving bell" effect within the anti-bubble tube.

30. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 29, wherein said anti-bubble tube comprises a heat sensor of a thermally reactive material to indicate a temperature of a liquid in the container.

31. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 29, wherein said anti-bubble tube has a lower section and an upper section, wherein the upper section generally surrounds the valve, and wherein the lower section has a larger volume than the upper section.

32. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, wherein said valve is integrally formed with said closure member.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, wherein said valve further includes a connecting portion adapted and configured for sealingly engaging said closure member during use, sufficiently tightly to prevent inadvertent release during use, and for easy removal for cleaning.

35. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 34, wherein said valve further includes a gripping portion for ease of gripping during removal of said valve from said closure member.

36. (Previously Presented) The vent system according to claim 1, further comprising a drinking container comprising:

a liquid outlet member; and

a collar, wherein the collar is threadably connected to the container for sealing the liquid outlet member against the closure member, wherein a threaded region of a neck of the bottle and a threaded region of the collar are adapted and configured to allow air to pass there between and enter said air passage.

37. (Currently Amended) A method for forming a drinking container, the method comprising:
- mounting, on the drinking container, a single piece closure member adapted and configured for coupling to an open top of the drinking container, said closure member including an air passage there through to allow the passage of air from outside the container to an interior of the container;
- forming, in said closure member, at least one air vent tube with more than one air vent tube opening in a periphery of said closure member, wherein said more than one air vent tube opening is operationally connected to said air passage;
- sealingly and removably coupling a one-way valve to said closure member, said valve being operatively connected to said air passage, said air vent tube, said more than one air vent tube openings, and extending into said container, for permitting passage of air from outside the container into said interior of the container through said more than one air vent tube opening, said air vent tube, and said valve only when a vacuum force is created inside the container, and preventing flow of liquid from the interior of the container to outside the container through the closure member;
- so as to form a substantially vacuum-free, non-leak drinking container.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 37, further comprising mounting an anti-bubble tube on said closure member circumscribing said valve, wherein said anti-bubble tube and said valve trap a volume of air therebetween so as to create a "diving bell" effect within the anti-bubble tube.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 40, wherein said anti-bubble tube is adapted and configured, when said container is inverted, to guide air entering the container to an air pocket formed in a bottom portion of the container, wherein the air pocket is created by partially emptying the container.

42. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 41, wherein the anti-bubble tube is adapted and configured to provide passage for air directly to said air pocket, and the air is not allowed to mix with the liquid in the container or create air bubbles in the liquid.